

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-51, and 53-59 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-54 were presented for examination. Claims 12 and 52 were cancelled and claims 55-59 were added by amendment.

In the office action mailed June 8, 2004 (the "Office Action"), claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,434,064 to Nagai *et al.* (the "Nagai patent"). Claim 51 was also rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,552,937 to Ladner *et al.* (the "Ladner patent"). Claims 1-7 and 14-50 were allowed, and claims 12, 13, and 52-54 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

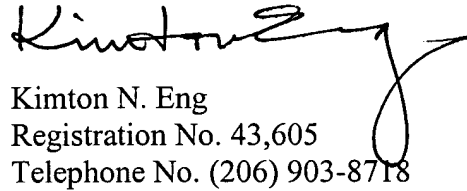
Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 12 and claim 51 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 52. New claim 55 has been added to claim the allowable subject matter of claim 13, and new claims 56-59, which depend from claim 55, recite the limitations of dependent claims 9-12.

The amendments to claims 8 and 51 have been made to expedite the allowance of allowable subject matter. The amendments, however, should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicants' belief that the subject matter of the unamended claims is unpatentable. Moreover, Applicants have not addressed the merits of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, or whether the Examiner's characterizations of the cited references are accurate. Therefore, the presumption that Applicants have tacitly acknowledged the merit of the rejections or that the references cited by the Examiner are relevant to the patentability of the present invention should not be made.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance.  
Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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